



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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California State Parks invites you to join the celebration

Celebrate the Holidays in California State Parks

Celebrate the holidays in California State Parks. Special events will happen throughout the state with living history programs, craft demonstrations, entertainment and food.

Here's a sample – in chronological order - of what is planned:

Hearst Castle® (SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY), on Highway 1 north of San Simeon, begins the yearly tradition of decorating the castle for Christmas on **November 12** and completing it on **December 1**. At Christmastime, The Assembly Room, The Refectory, and The Morning Room contain lavish decorations of hand-made garlands, brilliant red poinsettias, and two 18-foot Christmas trees fully decorated with lights and traditional ornaments. The Experience Tour during the daytime includes these rooms for viewing. Tours are offered daily, except Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. Reservations are highly recommended due to the limited availability. Experience Tour prices are \$20 for adults and \$10 for youth ages 6 through 17. For Tour Reservations Please Call (800) 444-4445 or online at www.hearstcastle.com

The **California State Capitol Museum** (SACRAMENTO COUNTY), at Capitol Mall and 10th Street in downtown Sacramento, will feature lunchtime holiday concerts from **November 30 through December 23 from 12 Noon to 1 p.m.** Visitors can enjoy a different musical presentation in the Capitol rotunda decked with decorations and turn-of-the-century floral arrangements. The variety of entertainment has something for everyone, including choirs, barbershop quartets and ballet. This annual music program recaptures a tradition of performance and décor that began with the Capitol's grand opening celebration in December 1869. For more information, go on-line to www.parks.ca.gov or call (916) 324-0333. The performances are free.

Columbia State Historic Park (TUOLUMNE COUNTY), three miles north of Sonora off Highway 49, celebrates the holidays **the first two weekends in December (December 3, 4, 10 and 11.)** Holiday events will feature candy cane making, a Victorian Feast at the City Hotel, Lamplight Tours, Las Posadas, and the Miner's Christmas daytime events through the holidays. For more information, call the park at (209) 588-9128.

Lake Oroville State Recreation Area (BUTTE COUNTY), seven miles east of Oroville, celebrates a "Frontier Christmas Celebration" on **Saturday, December 3** from 12 Noon until 4 p.m., at the Lake Oroville Visitor Center. This free Gold Rush-era event includes a visit from Santa, live entertainment, pioneer and Native American crafts, gold panning for real gold, wreath making, and mock pioneer weddings - with certificate. The Bidwell Bar Association sells homemade cookies, cakes, breads, pies, Bangors (English sausages) and hotdogs, soda, hot chocolate, and coffee. Visitors can also buy fine pioneer Christmas ornaments, toys and gifts crafted by State Park Volunteers. The celebration includes an hysterical rendition of "'Twas the Night Before Christmas" skit, where children play reindeer roles. For more information call: (530) 538-2219.

La Purisima Mission State Historic Park (SANTA BARBARA COUNTY), three miles northeast of Lompoc, will have it's annual Founding Day Celebration on **Thursday, December 8** at 7 p.m. Luminarias will lead the way to a musical evening celebrating the anniversary of La Purisima Mission's founding in 1787. Free event tickets are available November 1st by mail request only. No requests will be accepted with postmarks prior to November 1st. There is a limit of four tickets per family. For more information at (805) 733-3713.

Monterey State Historic Park (MONTEREY COUNTY), in downtown Monterey, presents the 22nd annual Christmas in the Adobes. The special event offers visitors the chance to experience Monterey's unique 19th century adobes lit by candlelight and luminarias on **Friday and Saturday, December 9 and 10**, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Visitors will enjoy period music, living history, decorations and the opportunity to meet costumed volunteers. Tickets go on sale October 15; \$18 adult, \$2 children (age 6 – 17 with adult), and under six free. Tickets are available at: Cooper Museum Store (831) 649-7111, Bay Books (831) 655-3200, and by mail order (831) 647-6226. The event is sponsored by California State Parks In association with Old Monterey Preservation Society.

Sutter's Fort State Historic Park (SACRAMENTO COUNTY), in downtown Sacramento at 2701 "L" Street, features "An Emigrant Christmas" on **Saturday, December 10** from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Costumed docents will demonstrate Christmas traditions from the various countries and cultures that would have been represented at Sutter's fort in 1846, such as Germany, England, Mexico, and Switzerland. For more information, call the park at (916) 445-4422.

Marshall Gold State Historic Park, in Coloma on Highway 49 between Placerville and Auburn, will have their annual 1850s celebration "Christmas in Coloma" on **Sunday, December 11** from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. The event features period crafts, music, strolling musicians, historic trade demonstrations, 19th century Christmas programs and plays, and wreath making. A visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus is a highlight of the day. Vendors offer hand-made crafts as well as a variety of food. Snow is guaranteed! The historic buildings in the park will be open for visitors. For more information, call the events line at (530) 295-2162 or on-line www.marshallgold.org and www.parks.ca.gov

Old Town San Diego State Historic Park (SAN DIEGO COUNTY) and the surrounding community host an evening holiday open house on **Friday and Saturday, December 9th and 10th** - "Holiday in the Park." The event creates a holiday spirit with the illumination of major buildings and streets by candlelight. Holiday singers and entertainment will perform throughout the evening. State Park concessions/businesses will provide complimentary refreshments. Volunteers and staff, dressed in period attire, will share Old Town's rich holiday history as visitors tour Old Town by candlelight. (Fee for tour required). Park activities 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. For more information, call the park at (619) 220-5422.

Wilder Ranch State Park (SANTA CRUZ COUNTY), two miles north of Santa Cruz on Highway 1, will feature "Holidays on the Ranch: A special family living history day" on **Saturday, December 17**, from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. Visitors will experience holiday fun from Rancho, Victorian, and early 20th Century times, including an old-fashioned sing-along around the piano, making and playing with a dreidel, sampling Victorian and Mexican holiday goodies, making a present for someone special, helping to decorate the tree or create ornaments for your own tree, and more. Admission to the event is free. Parking is \$6 per car. For more information, call the Wilder Ranch Interpretive Center at (831) 426-0505. This event is co-sponsored by California State Parks and Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks.

Visit California State Parks on-line at www.parks.ca.gov

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